

Washington, DC (June 1, 2012) – U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Palm Harbor), Vice Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, today issued the following statement after the House of Representatives passed the FY 2013 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, which provides the nation's military with the infrastructure needed to house, train, and equip military personnel, provides for the quality of life of our troops and their families, and maintains our strong military base structure. It also funds veterans' benefits and programs to ensure that all veterans receive the services they need and deserve:

"Our nation's servicemembers embody the American spirit that has forged a better future for our nation's children and grandchildren. We must never forget what they have given to preserve the freedom that we enjoy. Our veterans served our country honorably and nobly, and we must ensure they have access to resources to keep them healthy and provide them with training and services to pursue meaningful careers after their service."

The bipartisan bill was approved overwhelmingly with a 407-12 vote.